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LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BACKS PRESIDENT OBAMA'S GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVES, ASKS COUNTY TO LOOK INTO DIVESTING FROM FIRMS WITH TIES TO GUN MANUFACTURERS

LOS ANGELES –The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to keep up the momentum on ending gun violence, supporting measures at the state and federal level, as well as initiating new steps for the county. The three motions, sponsored by Chairman Mark Ridley-Thomas, brought the force of the county to support President Barack Obama's gun control measures, including closing background check loopholes to keep guns out of dangerous hands, banning military-style assault weapons and high capacity magazines, making schools safer and improving mental health services.

In order to focus on the profit motive behind the gun lobby's obstruction of sensible gun laws, the board has requested that the Los Angeles County Employees

Retirement Association (LACERA) re-examine its investment in companies that manufacture guns and ammunition and consider divestment of public pension funds in those enterprises.

In addition, the board voted to support California Senate Bill 53 by Senator Kevin De Leon, which would require the purchaser of ammunition to first obtain a permit. This bill expands existing law and would require the California Attorney General to maintain records of ammunition purchase permits in order to assist in the investigation of crimes. The De Leon bill also would expand the regulations governing the sale, purchase or transfer of handgun ammunition by mandating that all transactions involving ammunition are accomplished through a face-to-face transaction. Currently, federal law does not proscribe online sales of ammunition.

According to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, more than 30,000 people in America die every year as a result of gun violence—nearly 3,000 of those are children and teens.

“It is time to stop the epidemic of gun violence in our country,” said Chairman Ridley-Thomas. “The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is doing its part to help move in that direction.”

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